United Nations A/68/658–E/2014/7

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 February 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 24 (a)
Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council
2014 session
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Policy for independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In December 2012, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/226, reaffirmed the need to strengthen independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development. Noting the findings and recommendations of the independent review commissioned by the Secretary-General in response to Assembly resolution 64/289 (see A/66/852),[1] the Assembly reaffirmed that further strengthening of system-wide evaluation within the United Nations development system should be based on utilizing and enhancing existing mechanisms.

2. Also in its resolution 67/226, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish an interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system composed of the Joint Inspection Unit, the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the interim coordination

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] During the informal consultations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly on operational activities in the fall of 2013, Member States agreed to launch two pilot independent system-wide evaluations, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, and decided that the themes of the evaluations should be "Meta-evaluation and synthesis of United Nations Development Assistance Framework evaluations, with a particular focus on poverty eradication" and "Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals".

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mechanism, to develop a policy for independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including submitting a proposal for pilot system-wide evaluations, for discussion by the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session in 2013. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2013/5, welcomed the establishment of the interim coordination mechanism, took note of the new policy document, and called for continuing consultations with Member States on the proposals for pilot system-wide evaluations for decision by the end of 2013.

3. The interim coordination mechanism was established in late February 2013. The group met regularly over the following four months to develop a policy to support independent system-wide evaluations of operational activities for development. This policy represents the outcome of consultations with a significant number of Member States, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and relevant inter-agency mechanisms.

4. The policy aims to ensure that independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system is systematically applied in order to assess whether the United Nations system is efficiently and effectively responding to needs and priorities at the global, regional and country levels and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. As noted in section X of the policy, it is envisaged that the General Assembly will review the policy and the outcomes of its pilot implementation during the Assembly's quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2016. This review will inform improvements and adjustments to the policy.

6. The United Nations system entities are ready to support Member States in the implementation of the policy, in order for the work of the Organization to achieve greater development effectiveness and impact in respect of development in programme countries.